

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 152

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

USMNR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON EMBARGO, SUSPENSION
OF U.S. OPERATIONS

REF: ANKARA 5798

1. DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AN
COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE
TURKISH PRESS TUESDAY (JULY 29).

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2. MAIN STORIES FOCUSSED ON STATEMENTS

REPORTED FROM WHASHINGTON, THE VIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE 1969 DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (DCA) REMAINS VALID, DETAILS OF THE IMPOSITION OF TURKISH CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER THE INSTALLATIONS, AND TODAY'S MEETING OF THE NATO COUNCIL.

3. BANNER HEADLINE STORIES IN HURRIYET AND TERCUMAN REPORT

THE DOLLAR VALUE U.S. OFFICIALS PLACE ON THE INSTALLATIONS. ACCORDING TO HURRIYET'S HEADLINE, "THE VALUE OF THE BASES IS 600 BILLION DOLLARS" (SIC). THE HURRIYET STORY WAS BASED ON A REPORTED STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL JAMES HOLLOWAY TO NBC-TV. TERCUMAN AND MILLIYET REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO SENATOR MANSFIELD, THE U.S. HAD SPENT 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS ON THE INSTALLATIONS. BARIS, IN ITS BANNER HEADLINE, SAID THAT A U.S. CONGRESSMAN HAS CHARGED THAT TURKEY IS GUILTY OF BLACKMAIL. THE STORY WAS BASED ON REPORTED STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS O'NEILL.

4. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT A STATEMENT MONDAY BY DEPARTMENT

SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON THAT THE U.S. STILL CONSIDERS THE 1969 DCA VALID. CUMHURIYET'S BANNER HEADLINE REPORTED THE STATEMENT, BUT CITED TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT WAS MERELY THE ASSERTION OF A THEORETICAL LEGAL RESERVATION. CUMHURIYET'S STORY ADDED THAT APO AND PX SERVICES HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND THAT TAX-FREE FUEL WAS NO LONGER BEING PROVIDED FOR U.S. JET AIRCRAFT.

5. MILLIYET'S BANNER HEADLINE STORY DECLARED THAT ALL WORK

AT THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS HAD CEASED AND THAT TURKISH TECHNICIANS WERE BEING BRIEFED ON THE OPERATION OF EQUIPMENT AT THESE INSTALLATIONS. THE SAME STORY REPORTED THAT BI-LATERAL TALKS ON A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE MID- AUGUST, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF PREPARING FOR THE TALKS AND IN PART BECAUSE OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THE STORY ALSO CARRIED EXTENSIVE COMMENTS BY "A TURKISH OFFICIAL" CONCERNING THE STATUS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNCLASSIFIED

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IN TURKEY (SEPTTEL).

6. GUNAYDIN CARRIED A FRONT PAGE REPORT SAYING THAT ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, "ALL THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND RADARS AT THE BASES HAVE BEEN SILENCED." IN CONTRAST, THE FAR LEFTWING DAILY YENI ORTAM SAID IN A FRONT PAGE STORY THAT MEMBERS OF THE WAR WORKERS UNION AT PIRINCLIK HAVE REPORTED THAT, EXCEPT

FOR THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE TURKISH FLAG FOR THE AMERICAN,
ACTIVITIES HERE ARE CONTINUING WITHOUT CHANGE.

7. MOST PAPERS GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO TODAY'S MEETING
OF THE NATO
COUNCIL AT THE REQUEST OF TURKEY. CUMHURİYET, AMONG OTHER PAPERS,
SAID THAT TURKEY WILL EXPLAIN ITS ACTION, SEEK GUARANTEES
FOR ITS DEFENSE FROM NATO ALLIES,
AND EXAMINE WAYS TO FILL GAPS IN
NATO DEFENSE. IN A STORY ON PREPARATIONS FOR HELSINKI MEETING,
CUMHURİYET ALSO REPORTED THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED
WHETHER MR. DEMIREL WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

8. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS JN MILLİYET REPORTED THAT REPUBLICAN
PEOPLES PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVİT RETURNED TO TURKEY
MONDAY FROM A VISIT TO ROMANIA. ACCORDING TO MILLİYET, ECEVİT
TOLD REPORTERS AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT THAT: "I DO NOT FIND
WORRISOME FOR TURKEY'S FUTURE THE EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH
WHICH WE HAVE BEEN FACED RECENTLY. WE MAY BE DISILLUSIONED. AND
WE MAY FACE SOME SHORTAGES AND DIFFICULTIES. BUT FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF TURKEY'S MORAL FORCE, WE ARE A COUNTRY WHICH
CAN MAKE A POWERFUL NEW PLACE FOR OURSELVES IN THE WORLD."

9. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN TUESDAY EDITIONS CONTINUED VOLUMINOUS.
A FREQUENT THEME WAS THE LACK OF CLARITY IN THE GOT'S ACTIONS
AND INTENTIONS. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, HURRIYET SAID THAT:
" SINCE FRIDAY NIGHT, TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN ANXIOUS
TO KNOW HOW THE DECISION TAKEN IN RELATION TO THE BASES WILL
BE PUT INTO EFFECT. DIFFERING COMMENTS ON THIS MAY LEAVE
THE GOVERNMENT FACING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS IN THE FUTURE. THE
ISSUE IS NOW WHETHER A PERIOD OF REVOCATION
IS RECOGNIZED FOR
THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE BI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS. AT NEITHER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS
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HAVE MADE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NEW STATUS OF THE BASES IS
AN ISSUE FOR DEBATE."

10. OPPOSITION GÜNAYDIN AND CUMHURİYET ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE DETAILED ACTIONS THE GOT IS CONTEMPLATING. IN A FRONT PAGE
COMMENTARY, CUMHURİYET SAID VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE 1969
AGREEMENT ARE BEING DISCUSSED: "THERE IS NO CLARITY YET
AS TO WHICH COURSE ANKARA HAS CHOSEN. VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES
ARE DISCUSSED IN SECRECY. WITHIN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF SECRECY,
IT IS BEING RUMORED THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO
KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR A U.S. RETURN." GÜNAYDIN COLUMNIST
TEOMAN EREL RIDICULED THE GOT FOR ITS "CLUMSINESS AND
HESITATIONS" IN THE APPLICATION OF ITS DECISION FRIDAY NIGHT.
"WILL DEMIREL MEET WITH FORD? IF FORD ASKS FOR CONCESSIONS,

WHAT WILL HE SAY AND AHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AMERICANS ON THE BASES? ARE THE VERBAL AND WRITTEN AGREEMENTS, ASIDE FROM THE 1969 AGREEMENT, STILL VALID?"

11. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI, IN A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY, ASSERTS THAT UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS IT APEARS THAT AMERICANS IN TURKEY HAVE MERELY GONE ON VACATION OR TAKEN COMPULSORY LEAVE. "THE AMERICAN BASES AND INSTALLATIONS IN OUR COUNTRY WERE NEITHER CLOSED DOWN NOR DID THEY BECOME TURKEY'S PROPERTY. THE SENDING OME OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL ALSO IS NOT A QUESTION AT THE MOMENT." IPEKCI SPECULATED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT MAY BE TO PERMIT THE BASES TO RESUME OPERATING IF THE EMBARGO CAN BE LIFTED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOT WOULD ATTEMPT TO REACH A NEW AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD MAKE A RECURRENCE OF THE EMBARGO EPISODE IMPOSSIBLE.

12. IN OTHER COMMENT TUESDAY, ERGUN GOZE, WRITING IN CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN, NOTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT TURKEY WOULD BECOME A MAJOR NUCLEAR POWER WERE SHE TO SEIZE ATOMIC WEAPONS ON HER TERRITORY. " NOTHING COULD BE A BETTER REPLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONFISCATED OUR ARMS ALREADY BOUGHT AND PAID FOR..... THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT TURKEY HAS DECIDED TO TAKE HER RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.... TURKEY IS IN A POSITION TO READY HERSELF TO BECOME THE LEADER OF THE MIDDLE EAST. TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MIDDLE EAST, TO TAKE CYPRUS AND THE DODECANESE ISLANDS."

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